



# Knights *focus*

St. Jude COUNCIL #7736  
St. Jude Catholic Church, Mansfield, TX

Something for the Heart

By Grand Knight Speedy Gonzales

February 2016

## The Empty Egg

Jeremy was born with a twisted body and a slow mind. At the age of 12 he was still in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool, and make grunting noises. At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy just irritated his teacher.

One day she called his parents and asked them to come in for a consultation. As the Forresters entered the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five year gap between his age and that of the other students."

Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue, while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here." Doris sat for a long time after they had left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach, and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read and write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. Here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared to that poor family, she thought. Lord, please help me to be more patient with Jeremy. From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day, he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him.

"I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loud enough for the whole class to hear. The other students snickered, and Doris' face burned red. She stammered, "Wh-why that's very nice, Jeremy. N-now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Miss Miller," the children responded enthusiastically—all except for Jeremy. He listened intently. His eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them.

That evening, Doris' kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and

unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse, and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their math lesson, it was time to open the eggs. In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground, we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arm. "That's my egg, Miss Miller," she called out. The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that's new life, too." Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine." Next, Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom. "My daddy helped me," he beamed.

Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty. Surely it must be Jeremy's she thought, and of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another. Suddenly, Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "But Jeremy, your egg is empty." He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty, too."

Time stopped. When she could speak again, Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh, yes," Jeremy said, "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then His Father raised Him up."

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the schoolyard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away.

Three months later, Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket..... all of them empty.

**Viva Cristo Rey  
Speedy Gonzales  
Grand Knight**

## Upcoming Events

- February 6 - Turkey and Brats Weekend
- February 7 - Turkey and Brats Weekend
- February 9 - Monthly Business Meeting
- February 10 - Ash Wednesday
- February 11- Fish Fry Prep
- February 12 – Fish Fry
- February 13 – CWO Bingo
- February 14 - Valentine's Day
- February 15 – Presidents Day
- February 18 – Fish Fry Prep
- February 19 – Fish Fry
- February 23 - Monthly Planning Meeting
- February 25 - Fish Fry Prep
- February 26 – Fish Fry
- February 27 – Pray at Abortion Clinic

**Ask a good Catholic man  
to join the Knights today!  
It'll make him a better  
Catholic – just like it did  
to you!!!**

## Turkey Legs and Brats

We are cooking our world famous turkey legs and brats after all Masses on February 6<sup>th</sup> and February 7<sup>th</sup>. Please come out and pitch in when you can, especially after the mass you attend to help sell. This is a big fundraiser for us, so please come out and help. New guys especially welcome!



## Lenten Fish Frys

Fish Fry prior to Stations of the Cross. Start cooking around 3:00 PM - Dinner starts at 5:00 PM and ends when Stations start at 7:00 PM. Please come out whenever you can, even if it's right at the end to help clean up.



## Knights Can Weekend

Our next KNIGHTS CAN Weekend is February 27<sup>th</sup>. On this weekend, the Knights all make an effort to remember to bring in canned goods for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

## Council Family Super Bowl Party!!!

February 7<sup>th</sup> is our Annual Family Super Bowl Party! Come and enjoy the company of your fellow Knights and enjoy the big game. The Council will have some bratwursts, along with a margarita machine and SOME beer, wine and sodas. Bring some cash if you want to buy some "squares". Potluck meal - please bring a dish to share.



## Monthly Awards

**Knight of the Month – Ken Coleman**

Ken has been in the council for a few months and has already participated in Bingo, the Church Festival, Turkey and Brauts sales and numerous other events. He started as soon after he joined us here at St Judes and continues to serve. Thanks for all your help Ken.

**Family of the Month – Lee and Claudia Livingston**

Lee is the past Treasurer for the Council, chaired the Golf Tournament, is Saturday's Usher Lead and much much more. Claudia is also very much involved in parish functions, on the Bingo event team and is an active member of the Lady Knights.



**Find out everything going on with Council 7736 at  
[www.kofc7736.org](http://www.kofc7736.org)**

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